

## **POLICY BULLETIN CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

**NSLP 06-07**

**April 10, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Fluid Milk and Other Food Components/menu items in  
Reimbursable Lunches**

**CONTACT: Charlene Allert**

**PH: (801) 538-7563**

It has come to our attention that there may be some confusion concerning fluid milk, and how it is offered in reimbursable lunches. Under all menu planning approaches, fluid milk is a separate food component/menu item. It may not be presented as one choice in a beverage category; for instance, milk may not be paired with juice. Nor may milk be combined as one choice in a list of other food items or side dishes; for example, a menu that states "Choose one: 1% chocolate milk, 1.5% white milk, carrot sticks, or apple" is not acceptable. The "offer versus serve" provisions under any menu planning approach allow a student to decline fluid milk. However, the student's choice to decline milk cannot then enable the student to take some other item in its place; i.e., an additional item that would not otherwise be available to them as shown in our example with milk and fruit/vegetables choices in competition.

Each of the food components/menu items plays a unique nutritional role in the menu planning approaches. Permitting a student to exchange one food component/ menu item for another does not support the nutritional mission of the National School Lunch Program and also undermines the educational value of the school dining experience.